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URBAN DISTRICT OF WOLVERTON

ANNUAL REPORT

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1962

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Telephone Number: Stony Stratford 3253/4

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Medical Officer of Health

Chairman of the Council: Councillor J. M. L. Love, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor H. Wildman

Councillors : BUTTON, CAUSER, CORNFORD, HALL, HIGBY. JOHNSON and WAKEFIELD

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health: D. H. WALDRON,
O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., & H., Col. I.M.S.(Retd.)

(The Medical Officer of Health is also the M.O.H. for Buckingham M.B., and Buckingham R.D.C., Bletchley U.D.C., Newport Pagnell U.D.C., Winslow R.D.C. Area M.O. for North Bucks and Divisional School M.O. for the North Bucks Division and Buckingham and Winslow District).

Deputy M.O.H.: ROBERT M. LASLETT
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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URBAN DISTRICT OF WOLVERTON

Council Offices,
Market Square,
Stony Stratford,
Wolverton, Bucks.
9th July, 1963

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1962.

There was a total of 188 births giving a corrected Birth Rate of 16.3. This is an increase of nearly one point on the previous year but this rate still remains lower than that for the rest of the country.

There has been an increase in the number of deaths giving a death rate of 12.6 against that for the country of 11.9 of the total of 203 deaths 104 were due to Heart and Allied Diseases and 32 were due to Cancer.

The Infantile Mortality Rate shows a sharp rise on the previous year. There were 12 deaths in this group of which 9 were under the age of 1 week.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited the area in November and December. 4600 persons availed themselves of this free check-up. No active cases of Tuberculosis were discovered but 17 other chest irregularities were detected.

I should like to record another year of helpful co-operation with Mr. J. B. Harwood, your clerk, and Mr. D. M. Tucker, your Health Inspector, and their staffs.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. H. WALDRON,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

VITAL STATISTICS for the year	1961	1962
Area (in acres)	4,699	4,699
Population	13,040	12,990
Number of Inhabited Houses	4,603	4,599
Rateable Value (1st April)	£155,736	£155,547
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	£620	631
Rate per £1	24/2	25/10
BIRTHS		
Legitimate: Males	85	95
Females	84	84
Illegitimate: Males	2	1
Females	9	8
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	15.6	16.3
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population, Bucks County	18.6	19.2
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population, England and Wales	17.4	18.0
Still Births	4	3
DEATHS		
Males	100	100
Females	91	103
Death Rate per 1,000 Population ..	11.8	12.6
Death Rate per 1,000 Population, Bucks County	9.4	9.6
Death Rate per 1,000 Population, England and Wales	12.0	11.9
Maternal Mortality	Nil	Nil
Maternal Mortality, England and Wales	0.33	0.35
INFANTILE MORTALITY		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births	11.1	63.8
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births, Bucks County	18.1	17.9
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births, England and Wales ..	21.4	21.4

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH	1961			1962		
	M	F	T	M	F	T
Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0	1	0	1
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningococeal Infections	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer	15	9	24	15	17	32
Leukaemia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diabetes	0	2	2	1	2	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage	16	21	37	7	18	25
Heart Diseases	37	30	67	39	40	79
Other Circulatory Diseases	4	2	6	4	2	6
Influenza	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bronchitis	6	1	7	8	3	11
Pneumonia	9	7	16	6	7	13
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	1	3	0	0	0
Digestive Diseases	2	2	4	0	1	1
Nephritis	0	2	2	0	2	2
Hyperplasis of Prostate	1	0	1	2	0	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Causes	2	0	2	2	1	3
Accidents	0	3	3	3	3	6
Suicide	2	0	2	2	0	2
All other causes	4	11	15	10	7	17
	100	91	191	100	103	203

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. Laboratory Services

The bacteriological work of the District has been carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton. Samples for chemical analysis are sent to London.

2. Ambulance Services

These services are administered by the County Council and are now radio controlled from Aylesbury, with sub-stations throughout the County. The Wolverton area is covered by Bletchley station. British Railways also maintain an ambulance at Wolverton Works.

3. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics

Clinics are held twice monthly in New Bradwell and Stony Stratford and three times monthly at Wolverton. These clinics are attended by Nurses, Health Visitors and a doctor, and immunizations against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Poliomyelitis were carried out in addition to routine inspections. The total number of attendances by children was 3,743.

A word of thanks and praise must be given to the ladies of the voluntary committee who give so much of their spare time in helping to organise these clinics.

4. Chest Clinic

The clinic continues to do excellent work in the field of prevention and control of Tuberculosis. Sessions are held twice weekly at The Meacham Clinic and are under the personal supervision of the County Chest Physician.

5. Physiotherapy Clinic

Administered by Northampton General Hospital, this clinic functions daily at Wolverton Road, Stony Stratford, and is doing excellent work.

6. Wolverton Diagnostic Clinic

This clinic, administered by the Northampton General Hospital, is situated at The Meacham Clinic and is attended at various times during the week by Specialists from Northampton.

7. Dental Clinic

Administered by the County Council, this clinic is located at Wolverton and is doing excellent work amongst the school children.

8. Nursing Facilities

As in previous years the District Nurses carried on their excellent and noble work.

9. Home Helps Service

This service, administered by the County Council, now has 2 full time organisers in the North Bucks area, one of whom is centred in Wolverton. During the year 234 cases were assisted.

10. Hospital Services

The majority of cases are sent to the Northampton Group of Hospitals, but some are also admitted to the Aylesbury and Oxford Groups.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Water

The Bucks Water Board supply and distribute water in the area. Samples of water were regularly submitted for bacteriological examination. In every case the results were satisfactory.

There have been no complaints to the department of unpalatability and it is thought that the remedial works instituted by the Board are proving satisfactory.

During the year some attention has been given to the possibility of the fluoridation of the water and certain conferences have been held on the matter for the information of officers.

At the moment there is no indication from the Board of their intent or desire to fluoridate the water.

Public Cleansing

The collection of house refuse is on a satisfactory basis and the Council will shortly commence tipping at a new site in the New Bradwell area. The Council are giving attention to the matter of the future use of the controlled tip at Wolverton.

Closet Accommodation and Sewage Disposal

Each year I report to the Council that the Wealds of Calverton are still deprived of a water carriage system. I am pleased to know that in a five year programme of capital works the Council have included as one of their projects for priority the provision of such a water carriage system. It is hoped that this will be completed as soon as possible.

Shops Act, 1950 (Section 38)

During the winter months it was necessary to pay close attention to the temperature maintained in shops. In view of the very adverse weather conditions it is pleasing to report that in only two cases it was necessary to take informal action to secure the provision of a reasonable working temperature.

Smoke Abatement

Surveys still continue and the pollution of the atmosphere has remained at its previous levels. During the coming year negotiations will be taking place with the Officers of the Wolverton Carriage and Wagon Works to ensure that all their furnaces and chimneys comply with all the requirements of the Act.

Rodent Control

This work has continued during the year and has been further complicated by the number of empty properties in the East Wolverton Re-development Area and other clearance areas and properties included in Clearance or Compulsory Purchase Orders. During the winter several severe infestations occurred at both the Wolverton controlled refuse disposal tip and at the disused sewage works in Newport Road. To illustrate the seriousness of these infestations 150 bodies were picked up in one day. The assumption from this information is that on that day the total killed would be about 600 rats.

INSPECTION AND VISITS

DWELLINGHOUSES	
Number of dwelling houses inspected	1,384
MEAT AND OTHER FOODS	
Number of inspections of butchers' shops	182
,, ,, ,, ,, slaughterhouses	10
,, ,, ,, ,, meat distributors' vehicles ..	56
,, ,, ,, ,, food shops	879
BAKE HOUSES	
Number of inspections	151
ICE CREAM RETAILERS	
Number of inspections	186
ICE CREAM MANUFACTURERS	
Number of inspections	83
FACTORIES AND WORK SHOPS	
Number of inspections	594
PETROLEUM ACTS AND ORDERS	
Number of inspections of premises licensed to store petroleum	783
CARAVANS AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS	
Number of inspections of caravans and sites	292
INFECTIOUS DISEASES	
Number of visits of enquiry	204
SCHOOLS	
Number of inspections	172

SECTION D

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Details are given below of the types of foods voluntarily surrendered for destruction.

Apricots	29 tins	Orange Juice	1 tin
Apricot Jam	33 ,,	Ox Tongue	3 tins
Baked Beans	15 ,,	Peaches	110 ,,
Beef Loaf	5 ,,	Pears	37 ,,
Beef Sausages	9 lbs.	Pears	20 boxes
Broad Beans	2 tins	Peas	69 tins
Casserole Meat	2 ,,	Pigs Trotters	2,000 lbs.
Cherries	4 ,,	Pilchards	24 tins
Corned Beef	25 ,,	Pineapple	35 ,,
Crab Meat	1 tin	Plums	1 ,,
Cream	2 tins	Prunes	3 ,,
Evaporated Milk	22 ,,	Red Cabbage	1 tin
Fruit Salad	15 ,,	Rice Pudding	15 tins
Gammon	1 tin	Runner Beans	3 ,,
Gooseberries	1 ,,	Salmon	11 ,,
Grapefruit	10 tins	Sausages	1 tin
Ham	6 ,,	Skate	10¾ lbs.
Ham and Pork	3 ,,	Soup	14 tins
Jellied Veal	1 tin	Steak and Gravy	2 ,,
Lambs Liver	2 tins	Steak & Kidney pudding	1 tin
Loganberries	1 tin	Stewed Steak	10 tins
Loin Pork	2 tins	Tomatoes	161 ,,
Luncheon Meat	10 ,,	Tomato Puree	1 tin
Marmalade	8 ,,	Tuna Fish	1 ,,
Oranges	12 ,,		

The problem of the unhygienic handling of food still continues and in the main is due to either the deliberate flouting of the Food Hygiene Regulations or wanton ignorance of the basic principles of the hygienic handling of food. More severe action will be taken against any infringements of the Food Hygiene Regulations if the situation does not improve.

Ice-cream

There are 47 premises from which ice-cream is sold and samples have been taken regularly. Until recently in every case the ice-cream sold was pre-packed by the large manufacturers. The introduction of "soft" ice-cream vending machines is causing considerable extra work to my Department. The previous satisfactory position whereby one was assured of strict bacteriological

and qualitative control has, since the introduction of these machines, been removed. The suppliers of the ingredients produce their article under strict hygienic standards and it is delivered under the same conditions to the retailer. It is at this point that the problem becomes a matter of urgent concern to my Department. The retailer himself becomes a manufacturer of ice-cream and quite obviously the situation must be watched very carefully. I am pleased to report that those retailers who are dispensing this type of ice-cream have co-operated most fully with the Public Health Inspector and the results of samples taken and submitted for bacteriological examination have been very satisfactory. I sincerely hope that I will be able to report the same sound position in my next Annual Report.

SECTION E

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Premises	*Number on Register*	*Inspections*	*Number of Written Notices*	*Occupiers Prosecuted*
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. :	4	16	3	—
(ii) Factories not included in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	42	53	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	4	—	—
TOTAL ..	48	73	6	—

Particulars	*Number of cases in which defects were found*				*Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted*
	Found	*Remedied*	*Referred To H.M. Inspector*	*Referred by H.M. Inspector*	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Ventilation that is inadequate (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	—	—	—	—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	7	7	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	7	7	—	—	—

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. General

An epidemic of measles occurred in the first half of the year. This formed part of a general epidemic throughout the country.

2. Notifications

	1961	1962
Scarlet Fever	5	1
Measles	272	54
Pneumonia	—	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—

3. Tuberculosis

One new case were notified during the year. There were one death.

4. Cancer

There were 32 deaths from this disease during the year, 4 of which were due to cancer of the lung.